

Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission
30 South Meridian Street
Suite 500
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4706

APPLICATION
FOR THE
INDIANA SUPREME COURT

(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

Deadline – Wednesday, June 30, 2010

I. Provide your:

A. Full legal name and any former names. **Mary Geitz Willis**

B. Current home and office addresses, including email addresses and telephone numbers.

Home:

Office:

**1215 Race Street #340, New Castle, IN 47362
765-529-1403**

C. Date and place of birth. **11-18-66; Portsmouth, Virginia**

D. Complete a State Police release form printed on green paper. Include the release only with the original application and not with the copies.

II. Attach a recent photograph of you to the front of the original application and to each copy of your application.

III. A. State in what county you currently reside and since what date.

Henry County since December 2000

B. List all previous counties of residence, with dates.

Hancock County; May 1994- December 2000
Marion County; August 1988 - May 1994
Delaware County; August 1984 - May 1988 (student)
Porter County; November 1975 - August 1984
Naval Air Station, Island of Bermuda; 1973-1975
McLean, Virginia; 1970-1973
Norfolk, Virginia; 1966-1970

C. When were you admitted to the Indiana Bar?

I was admitted on June 7, 1991 when I was also admitted to the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana and the Indiana Tax Court. I was admitted to the United States Supreme Court on March 6, 1995.

D. Are you currently on active status? **Yes**

E. What is your attorney number? **15877-49**

IV. A. List below all colleges and universities you attended other than law schools. Attach a certified transcript from each to the original application and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy. (If your social security number is on your transcripts, redact it before copying.)

<u>School</u>	<u>Dates Enrolled</u>	<u>Degree or Certificate</u>
Ball State University	1984-1988	Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude

B. List below all law schools and post-J.D. programs attended. Attach a certified transcript from each to the original application and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy. (If your social security number is on your transcripts, redact it before copying.)

<u>School</u>	<u>Dates Enrolled</u>	<u>Degree and Class Rank</u>
Indiana University-Indpls.	1988-1991	J.D.

C. Describe any academic honors, awards, and scholarships you received and when.

- **Ball State University:**
 - **Scholarship 1984-1988**
 - **Honors College Graduate 1988**
 - **Golden Key National Honor Society**
 - **Mortar Board**
 - **Cardinal Corps**
- **Indiana University- Indianapolis School of Law, Senior Service Award, 1991**
- **Indiana Judicial College, 2007**
- **Indiana Graduate Judges Program, 2007**
- **Awarded the National Judicial College Scholarship to attend "Current Issues in the Law," Orlando, Florida, 2010**
- **Indiana Judges Program Master's Candidate**

V. A. Provide your employment history since graduation from college, including titles or positions, locations, and dates.

- **Intern, Jodi Woods; Greenwood City Attorney; 1989**
- **Attorney, Brand and Allen, Greenfield, Indiana; 1990-1997**
- **Probate Commissioner, Henry Circuit Court; 1997-2002**
- **Landmark Accounts, Collection Attorney, Anderson, IN 1997-2002**
- **Judge, Henry Circuit Court; 2003- present**

B. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your practice of law, present and former, and provide the names of your partners, associates, office mates, and employers.

- **Engaged in the general practice of law with an emphasis on tax bankruptcy, family, custody, juvenile, criminal and civil including major collections.**
- **Partners: Jim Brand, Eric Allen, Dawn Wellman and Jim McNew**
- **Associates: Greg Brand, Nicole Zelin, Scott Sirk and Bryan Williams**

C. Describe the extent of your jury experience, if any.

Extensive jury experience as a judicial officer as described below. Minimal experience as a practicing attorney.

D. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your judicial experience, including a description of your experience presiding over jury trials, if any.

I have been a judicial officer since 1997 when I was appointed by the Hon. John Kellam as the Probate Commissioner for Henry Circuit Court. In 2002, I was elected in a contested race as the first female judge in the County and was re-elected in 2008. I have presided over approximately 45 civil and criminal jury trials since 2000 including a triple homicide trial.

VI. A. If applicable, list by caption, case number, and filing date up to five of your trial or appellate briefs and/or written judicial opinions.

- **State of Indiana vs. Gregory Galloway, 33C01-0710-MR-0002; 5/4/09**
- **Crawford v Crawford, 33C01-0106-DR-121; 7/03**
- **Involuntary Termination of R.G. & R-Z.G, 33C01-0812-JT-0015; 5/09**
- **Knightstown Banner v Town of Knightstown, 33C01-0405-PL-0013; 3/29/07**
- **RR Real Estate v CN Armstrong Farms, 33C01-0212-PL-0035; 4/14/05**

B. If applicable, list up to five legislative drafts or court rules you have written or to which you contributed significantly. Refer to them by official citation, by date, and by subject matter.

Indiana Administrative Rule 29, proposed in 2010 to introduce new Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) requirements for judges to obtain 50% more continuing education than attorneys for increased professionalism and public confidence in the judiciary.

C. If applicable, list up to five of your contributions to legal journals or other legal publications. Provide titles, official citations, and a brief description of the subject matter.

D. Include with your application copies of any four of the written materials listed above in Section VI. A., B., and C.

E. Describe the nature and extent of any *pro bono* legal services you have contributed.

I volunteered legal services at the Senior Center in Greenfield, Indiana as a practicing attorney and have served as the Supreme Court designee for the Access to Justice pro bono Legal Services Council in District 6 serving as President of the Board of Directors following the successful establishment of the 501(c)(3). As a judicial officer, I participated in the production of an educational video for self-represented litigants as a public service and secured grant funding for technology to disseminate and display the materials to the indigent.

F. Identify the five most significant legal matters entrusted to you whether as a judge or lawyer, and describe why you believe them to be so.

1) **Henry County Youth Center, Supervising Judicial Officer** which was significant when it became apparent that the Youth Center would have to be privatized and could no longer be supported as a governmental entity.

2) **State vs. Christopher Allen**. This was a triple homicide case from South Bend venued to Henry County and tried for the third time following a mistrial and Court of Appeals decision.

3) **State vs. Gregory Galloway**. This was a murder case tried to the bench on the issue of an insanity defense with numerous mental health components.

4) **Knightstown Banner vs. Town of Knightstown**. This involved a confidential settlement agreement sought by the newspaper which the State Public Information Officer deemed should be confidential. This case involved the anti-SLAPP statute and significant attorney fees which could have forced increased taxes.

5) **State vs. Jeremiah Hoots**. This was a shaken baby case which involved significant media, crowds and social networking involvement.

G. Provide the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three attorneys who have been your professional adversaries in your practice or who have litigated substantial cases in your court and who would be in positions to comment on your qualifications for appointment to the Indiana Supreme Court.

- **R. Scott Hayes, 214 S. Main Street, New Castle, IN 47362; 765-529-2100**
- **Mark Stamper, 1215 Race Street, New Castle, IN 47362; 765-521-0949**
- **Dawn Wellman, 5 Courthouse Plaza, Greenfield, IN 46140; 317-462-3455**

VII. A. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) toward the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice.

- **Established the Henry County Guardian Ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocate program for abused and neglected children and secured grant funding.**
- **Established the Henry County Family Court Project and secured funding.**
- **Established the JustUS program, a gender specific mentoring program for juvenile girls.**
- **Established an Out of School Suspension Program to reduce the expulsion rate and provide supplemental education for suspended middle and high school students.**

B. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) concerning civic, political, or social issues.

- **I am a member of the Indiana Judicial Conference Board of Directors and was elected by the members to the Strategic Planning Committee which drafted the white paper for judicial reform entitled "A New Way Forward," a copy which is attached.**
- **Judge, "We the People" competition**
- **Volunteer, "Tell Me What's Great About America"**
- **Volunteer, "Lincoln's 200th Birthday" school program**

C. List any memberships and offices you have held in civic or charitable organizations, including dates and descriptions of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

- **Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), 1987 - present; I have served as Recording Secretary, Vice President and President of the Local chapter and have spoken on leadership at the State Convention and attended the National Convention. PEO is an organization founded to raise money for women's scholarships and education.**

D. List any memberships and offices you have held in professional organizations, including dates and descriptions of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

- **American Judicature Society; 2003 to Present**
- **Indiana State Bar Association; 1991 to Present**

- **National Association of Women Judges; 2004 to Present**
- **American Inns of Court, Ratcliff-Cox Chapter, President; Member since 2004 to Present**
- **Henry County Bar Association; 1997 to Present**
- **Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Secretary; Member since 2005 to Present**
- **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; 2005 to Present**
- **Indiana Judicial Conference Board of Directors: 2006 to Present**
 - **Judicial Administration Committee; 2004 to 2006**
 - **Judicial Education Committee; 2007 to Present**
- **Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force; 2003 to 2006**
- **Judicial Technology and Automation Committee, Statewide Governing Board; 2006 to Present**
- **Judicial member of the DCS Regional Services Council for Region 12**

E. List any memberships you hold in social clubs or organizations. If any restrict its membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin, please describe your efforts within the organization to eliminate restrictions.

- **Daughters of the American Revolution**
- **First United Methodist Church**
- **Saturday Club**

F. Indicate your experience teaching law, and provide the dates, names of institutions or programs, and a description of the subject matter taught.

Since my election to the bench in 2003, I have presented juvenile case law summaries and statutory updates at each of the Probation Officer annual conferences and the Juvenile Judges Annual Conference. I teach the Juvenile Code at the Probation Orientation sponsored by the Indiana Judicial Center given three times per year.

I also teach Civil Case Management and Courtroom Efficiency to new judges and technology ethics as related to the statewide case management system, Odyssey.

G. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

I enjoy running, bike riding and outdoor activities with my husband of 21 years and our two children; ages 14 and 3. In addition, I enjoy movies, photography and scrapbooking.

VIII. A. Provide names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references other than those listed in Section VI. G.

- **Hon. John Kellam**
c/o Indiana State Court Admin
30 S. Meridian, Indianapolis, IN 46204
765-760-1135
- **Hon. Carl Heldt**
210 Courts Bldg.
Evansville, IN, 47708
812-435-5192
- **Hon. Marianne Vorhees**
Justice Center, 100 W. Washington Street
Muncie, IN 47305
765-747-7780

B. Provide names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three personal references other than those listed in VI. G.

- **Steve Broyles, CPA, MBA**
1484 South Memorial
New Castle, IN 47362
765-529-5200
- **Hon. Terry Shewmaker**
Elkhart Circuit Court
Goshen, IN 46526
574-535-6422
- **Senator Beverly Gard**
3660 North 50 East
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-2527

C. List any lawsuits or legal proceedings in any jurisdiction, including bankruptcies and dissolutions, to which you have been a party. Provide dates, case numbers, names of other parties, and, if needed, a brief explanation.

Rita and Richard Truax vs. Mary Geitz, 64D01-8805-CP-1156, May 1988, 1986 car accident.

D. If you ever have been arrested or cited for any violation of the law other than for routine traffic violations, provide dates, jurisdictions, and an explanation of the event and its resolution.

Not applicable.

E. If you are or have been a member of the Bar of any other state, identify the jurisdiction and provide dates.

Not applicable.

F. If you have been disciplined or cautioned, formally or informally, by the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, by the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications, by the Indiana Supreme Court, or by similar entities in any other jurisdiction, identify each instance by date, case number if applicable, and describe the circumstances and the nature of the outcome or resolution.

Not applicable.

G. If you have any outstanding federal, state, or local tax obligations, please itemize and explain.

Not applicable.

IX. A. Attach a recent statement from your physician describing your general physical condition.

B. Within the past three years, have you been diagnosed or treated for an emotional or mental condition or illness, including any condition that involves treatment for drug or alcohol use? If so, provide the dates of assessment and/or treatment and the names and addresses of your doctors or other treatment providers.

C. Are you able to perform the essential functions of Justice on the Indiana Supreme Court, with or without accommodation?

Yes, without accommodation.

6/25/10
DATE

Mary Willis
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

Mary G. Willis
PRINTED NAME

WAIVER AND STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The undersigned applicant authorizes the release to the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission or its staff or agents any records, reports, and documents, whether or not otherwise confidential, which may be requested by the Commission in the performance of its evaluations of candidates pursuant to I.C. § 33-27-3-2. The scope of this authorization extends to, but is not necessarily limited to, requests from the Commission for Federal, State or local tax records, criminal and driving histories from any jurisdiction, attorney and judicial disciplinary records from any jurisdiction, whether pending or closed, and credit reports and histories. The undersigned releases and discharges the Judicial Nominating Commission, its individual members, its employees, agents and representatives, the Indiana State Police, the Indiana Department of Revenue, the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission and any other agency or person or their agents or representatives providing information to the Commission from any and all liability arising from the furnishing and use of information concerning the undersigned applicant.

The undersigned agrees and understands that the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission or its members, agents, or employees, may interview or otherwise consult with members of the legal, judicial, and general community concerning the professional qualifications and the integrity of the applicant, that the name of the applicant will be released by the Commission upon its receipt of the application and this waiver, and that if, pursuant to I.C. § 33-27-3-2(d), the applicant is given further consideration as a candidate after the Commission's initial screening of candidates, or if no such screening occurs and all applicants are considered, the application will be made public. This waiver does not constitute an election by the applicant pursuant to I.C. § 33-27-3-2(g)(3)(C) to authorize the release of investigatory records which are excepted from public inspection pursuant to I.C. § 33-27-3-2(g)(1) and (2).

The undersigned agrees to immediately supplement this application upon any event or circumstance substantially affecting any answer provided in the application.

The undersigned acknowledges having read the Instructions attached to the application.

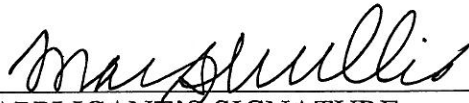
The undersigned agrees to resign from office or membership in any political organization upon submission of this application.

The undersigned affirms that, if nominated by the Judicial Nominating Commission to the Governor and thereafter appointed to this judicial office, the candidate will accept the appointment.

DATE

6/25/10

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE



Mary G. Willis
PRINTED NAME